THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) During 1995-96, 617211 MTs of wheat valued at Rs. 360.90 Crores at a unit price realisation of Rs. 5847.27 per MT (US $ 175.27 per MT, conversion rate 1$=Rs. 33.36) was exported.

(b) It is not possible to accurately compare the prices prevailing in the international and domestic markets on account of different varieties traded, variations in quality, and additional expenditure incurred in grading and packaging for exports.

(c) to (g). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Coal

1224. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal mines in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether sufficient coal is being extracted from these mines;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to close those mines which are not producing coal of good quality and in sufficient quantity;

(d) if so, the details of those mines; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to extract more and of good quality coal from these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The Statewise number of coal mines under Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited in the country are as under :-

States	Number of Mines	
	CIL	SCCL
Bihar	183	
West Bengal	111	
Madhya Pradesh	136	
Uttar Pradesh	4	
Maharashtra	49	
Orissa	20	
Assam	6	
Meghalaya	1	
Andhra Pradesh	--	71
Total	510	71

(b) Coal is being extracted from these mines as per the production programme.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Coal mines are closed only on the ground of exhaustion of reserves.

(e) The steps taken to increase production of coal from working mines are as under :

(i) rationalisation and amalgamation of mines to form more viable units;

(ii) formulation and implementation of various schemes and projects to augment coal production;

(iii) implementation of cost saving and quality control measures;

(iv) implementation of measures for improved capacity utilisation of equipments.

(v) imparting training to workes and staff for skill upgradation; and

(vi) adoption of latest technology in the areas of production, quality control and communication.

[English]

Rise in Coffee Price

1225. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp increase in the prices of coffee;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to regulate and arrest the faster and frequent rise of coffee prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

Under Invoicing Export

1226. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are losing thousands of crores of rupees every year on account of wrong declaration of origin in expensive products and their under invoicing by foreign suppliers;

(b) if so, whether such malpractices and frauds by exporters/importers have come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to improve in the working methods for customs administrations to nab the importers/exporters declaring under invoicing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Cases, allegedly involving misdeclaration and under invoicing of goods, are noticed from time to time in custom houses, which impact the Customs duties or the outgo of foreign exchange. Administrative arrangements, however, exist for the Customs officers to monitor the prices of import commodities as well as for exchange of information among the Custom house. Similarly, the Customs Houses also exchange information or intelligence relating to specific cases of misdeclaration and under invoicing, leading to detection of offences.

In addition, the law provides for confiscation of goods involving wrong declaration of description of value, besides imposition of fine and penalty. In serious offences, the persons involved are also prosecuted.

As a part of measures taken by the Government to deal with misdeclaration and invoice manipulation, preventive and intelligence activities have been strengthened and plans are underway to extend computerisation to all Custom Houses and to all Customs procedures and operations. These would help in containing as well as detecting the attempts made by unscrupulous importers/exporters.

[Translation]

Irregularities by Public Financial Companies

1227. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some irregularities by some public financial institutions in private placement issues of some companies have come to the notice of the Government as reported in Economic Times dated June 3, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Government is aware of the news item reported in 'The Economic Times' dated June 3, 1996. The investment referred to relates to investment by UTI, LIC and GIC in equity shares of Reliance Industries Limited for a total amount of about Rs. 945 crores. The issues of action to be taken, if any, is under examination.

[English]

District Industrial Centres

1228. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of District Industry Centres set up in each State as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the incentives given by the Government to these centres?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total number of District Industries Centres/Sub-DICs reported to the refunctioning as on date in the country is 475. A State/UT-wise statement is enclosed.

(b) The District Industries Centres are State Government offices. In terms of the decision of the National Development Council the District Industries Centres Scheme was transferred to the State Sector from the year 1993-94, prior to which, the District Industries Centre was a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Central Government however still provides District Industries Centres infrastructure/funds which are scheme specific.

STATEMENT

State UT-wise number of district industries centres functioning as on date in the country

S. No	Name of the State/UT	No. of District Industries Centres Functioning	
1	2	3	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	
2.	Assam	23	
3.	Bihar	39	
4.	Gujarat	18	
5.	Himachal Pradesh	12	
6.	Haryana	17	
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	
8.	Karnataka	20	
9.	Kerala	14	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	48	(There are 45 districts where DICs are functioning 3 additional DICs are working in Bhind, Dhar and Raisen districts)
11.	Maharashtra	29	
12.	Manipur	8	
13.	Meghalaya	7	
14.	Nagaland	7	
15.	Orissa	13	
16.	Punjab	17	
17.	Rajasthan	33	
18.	Sikkim	2	
19.	Tamil Nadu	22	
20.	Tripura	3	
21.	Uttar Pradesh	66	